

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 OES-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00
/096 W
-----051122Z 010165 /23

R 050550Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2416
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USINT BAGHDAD
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 3967

OE 11652: XGDS-1, DECONTROL AFTER 1995
TAGS: PFOR, IR, UR, AF, IQ
SUBJ: NATURE OF SOVIET THREAT AS PERCEIVED BY GOI

1. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION DURING HIS BRIEFING OF VISITING NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY GROUP MAY 3, FONMIN KHALATBARY DESCRIBED GOI PERCEPTION OF THE SOVIET THREAT. HE SAID THERE WAS NO CHANCE OF AN OPEN SOVEIT INVASION IRAN SINCE, FOR MANY REASONSN, THAT WOULD RESULT IN A WIDER WORLD CONFLICT. ON THE CONTRARY, HOWEVER, IRAN MUST BE PREPARED FOR POTENTIAL INDIRECT AGGRESSION BY SOVIET FRIENDS SUCH AS IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN, WHICH COULD CATCH IRAN IN A PINCERS. THOUGH IRAQ IS ONLY ONE-THIRD AS LARGE AS IRAN, ITS ARMED FORCES ARE EQUAL TO IRAN IN STRENGTH OR PERHAPS STRONGER. AFGHANISTAN'S ARMED FORCES ARE SUPPLIED BY THE SOVIET UNION AND AFGHAN OFFICERS TRAINED BY THE SOVIETS. IT IS LOGICAL THAT IRAN SEEK TO MAINTAIN SUFFIECENT STRENGTH TO COUNTER THESE TRHREATS.

2. COMMENT: THESE REMARKS IN NO WAY DEPART FROM KNOWN
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GOI THINKING, BUT WILL BE A USEFUL RESTATEMENT FOR THE RECORD.

3. FOR KABUL: INTERESTINGLY, IN DISCUSSING IRAN'S BROADER RELATIONSHIP WITH AFGHANISTAN, KHALATBARY SPOKE OF IRAN'S DISAPPOINTMENT OVER AFGHANISTAN'S LACK OF A SUFFICIENTLY FRIENDLY RESPONSE TO IRANIAN AID OFFERS

(WHICH HE NOTED HAD BEEN EXTENDED ONLY AT AFGHANISTAN'S REQUEST IN THE FIRST PLACE), BUT MADE NO MENTION OF CURRENT DIFFICULTIES OVER THE HELMAND WATERS. AT VERY LEAST, THIS WOULD SUGGEST GOI HAS NOT GIVEN UP ON NEGOTIATION AS A MEANS OF RESOLVING PROBLEMS OF WATER AND IS NOT YET INTERESTED IN PUBLICIZING ITS DIFFERENCES WITH AFGHANISTAN ON THE ISSUE.

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Message Attributes

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